



1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena MT 59620-1800
406-444-3115
TDD: 406-444-3005
Toll Free: 800-338-5087
Fax: 406-444-0266

We're on the Web!
<http://msl.state.mt.us>
Agency E-Mail: msl@state.mt.us

Contents

A Message from the State Librarian	2
Talking Book Library Hosts Activity Directors	2
Commission Report: The Libri Foundation	3
Summer Reading Program Photo	3
Periodical Database Vendor Chosen	4
NRIS Offers Free Seminars	4
National Book Festival	5
Montana Festival of the Book	5

Date Event

Aug 22--NRIS Seminar	Helena
Sept--Library Card Sign-up Month	
Sept 18-20--MT Festival of the Book	
Sept 20-27--Banned Books Week	
Sept 23--MTBL Volunteer Event	Ft. Harrison
Sept 26-27--Fall Workshop	Lewistown
Oct 4--National Book Festival	Washington, DC
Oct 8--Commission Meeting	Miles City

BIG SKY LIBRARIES

Number 83

August/September, 2003

Library Public Awareness Campaign Begins Soon

Story and photo by Anastasia Burton

As part of a statewide effort designed to boost awareness of Montana's libraries, the "Need it? Find it! @ your library," campaign kicks off on September 1. This promotion ties in with the American Library Association's national "@ your library" campaign, which has been designed to increase library usage across the country.

Montana's promotion was made possible by a collaboration between

MSL and the Montana Library Association's Public Relations and Marketing Committee, and is funded through the use of federal Library Services and Technology Act funds and the MLA.



Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs tapes a public service announcement for the "Need it? Find it! @ your library" campaign.

Three television and radio public service announcements (PSAs) were produced as the main component of "Need it? Find it! @ your library." The PSAs, which feature noted Montanans as spokespeople, emphasize the resources and expertise the state's libraries offer patrons. Musician Wylie Galt Gustafson and authors Tom McGuane and Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs generously donated their time to tape the announcements.

While each spokesperson has varied experiences and memories as patrons, they are united in their support and affection for our libraries. As with many patrons, their appreciation for libraries began at an early age. Wylie Galt Gustafson recalled, "I'll never forget the day I received my library card in Conrad. I was six years old. It was the first membership card that I ever had, and boy, did it make me feel like I was somebody!" Wylie added that he still has that first library card.

Tom McGuane also counts an early association with books and libraries as an important part of his childhood. Tom was borderline learning disabled for his first eight years or more of school, partly because of a difficult family life. He said, "Early on, I discovered the library ~ the bookmobile first ~ in our small town, then the school library; and finally the chain of libraries through the Sterling Library at Yale where I studied, and the many public libraries I've frequented all my life. I honestly

Continued on Page 6: Library Public Awareness Campaign



A Message from the State Librarian

By Karen Strege

Library Online Filter Law Upheld

Karen Strege, Ph.D.

On June 23, the Supreme Court upheld the Children's Internet Protection Act, known as CIPA. This decision means that public libraries must install filters if they receive federal funding, E-Rate or Technology Act, for Internet access. Since 1996, Congress has passed three laws to shield children from sexually explicit Internet sites. CIPA, the third law, is the first to be found constitutional.

Montana's public libraries have enacted many measures designed to help parents and children safely use the Internet at their local libraries. The governing boards of trustees have selected these procedures in keeping with their community's characteristics: some libraries offered filtered Internet access in the children's area; some used filters on all public-access computers; and many placed computers within sight of library staff to discourage display of explicit sites and required patrons to agree to rules of conduct while online. Some libraries use no filters. Montana library directors reported infrequent problems with the public's use of the Internet after adopting these locally determined measures.

Now, Montana's public libraries are facing a difficult decision, whether to install filters or to forego federal assistance to help provide Internet access. In some libraries, the decision may be easily made if federal dollars are minimal and other funds can stretch to cover their loss. However, at some of

Montana's libraries, the decision is more difficult if the loss in federal funding will cause financial hardship. Adding to the difficulty is the variability of available filters: some may not meet CIPA requirements and be easily turned off upon the request of an adult user; some of the filter products that meet these requirements and are easy to manage may be too expensive for the library to purchase.

The State Library's role in this decision-making process is simple and consistent with our previous actions. We will provide reliable information to all Montana public libraries regarding the decision, including: the rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission and the Institute of Museum and Library Services; policy options for libraries; and information about filtering technology. Along with other State Libraries, we plan to offer unbiased evaluations of filtering software and to work with vendors of these products to advocate for the needs of Montana's public library users.

The State Library will distribute this information through its website at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/admin/CIPA.htm> and through postings to the Montana library community's list-serve, Wired-Mt. The State Library will also offer workshops for librarians and trustees so they may learn more about the court ruling and filtering software.

The court has decided and public library boards and directors now face a difficult task ~ that of deciding whether to continue seeking federal funding, and if so, how to best protect the public's right to know while meeting the requirements of the law.

Talking Book Library Hosts Activity Directors

By Christie Briggs

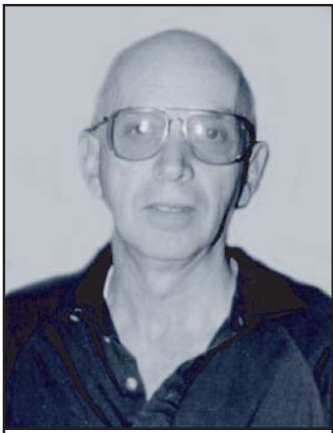
The Montana Health Care Association annually sponsors a one-week "Basic Activity Director Course" in Helena for students who have become activity directors at Montana's nursing homes, independent and assisted living, and other elder-care facilities.

As part of their course requirements, students spend an afternoon at the State Library, where they attend a Talking Book Library workshop and learn how to best utilize available services and resources. The students then participate in a tour of all State Library departments and end their day by doing on-line

research as part of their assignments.

On June 24, thirteen participants in the course were at the State Library. According to the evaluations completed by attendees, they appreciated the information provided by all State Library staff. Students commented that they "loved the library" and it was "so interesting."

On behalf of the Talking Book Library, thank you to all State Library staff who made this such a great and memorable experience for these students.



Al Randall

Commission Report

by Al Randall, Chair, Montana State Library Commission

The Libri Foundation: Making a Difference

The Lincoln County Public Libraries in Eureka, Libby, and Troy recently received their fourth book grant from the Libri Foundation of Eugene, Oregon. Foundation

Director Barbara McKillip has a philosophy of helping small libraries help themselves. This means that foundation assistance is in the form of matching grants. Local libraries raise from \$50 - \$350 and the Libri Foundation matches this two-to-one, up to a total grant of \$1,050. Choosing from the list of titles available through the foundation puts between 65 and 75 new children's books on the library's shelves.

I have always felt Barbara is a person whom Montana librarians would like to know. As Marbie and I were coming through Eugene this spring, we called and invited her to join us for lunch. As usual, she was working on the latest Libri Foundation award letters, packing book shipments to go to the successful small library applicants, and working on continuing funding for her foundation's future.

That brings us to the heart of this article ~ making a difference. How many of us have talked about what we would do if we won the lottery? After earning her master's degrees in history and library science and beginning a career as a reference librarian in Eugene, Barbara was telling her parents about her recent experiences in a rural school that had only six library books per student. She told her parents that if she won the lottery, she would start a foundation that would put at least \$500,000 worth of children's books in rural libraries across America every year. Her father replied, "If that is what you really want, you don't need to win the lottery first ~ just do it!"

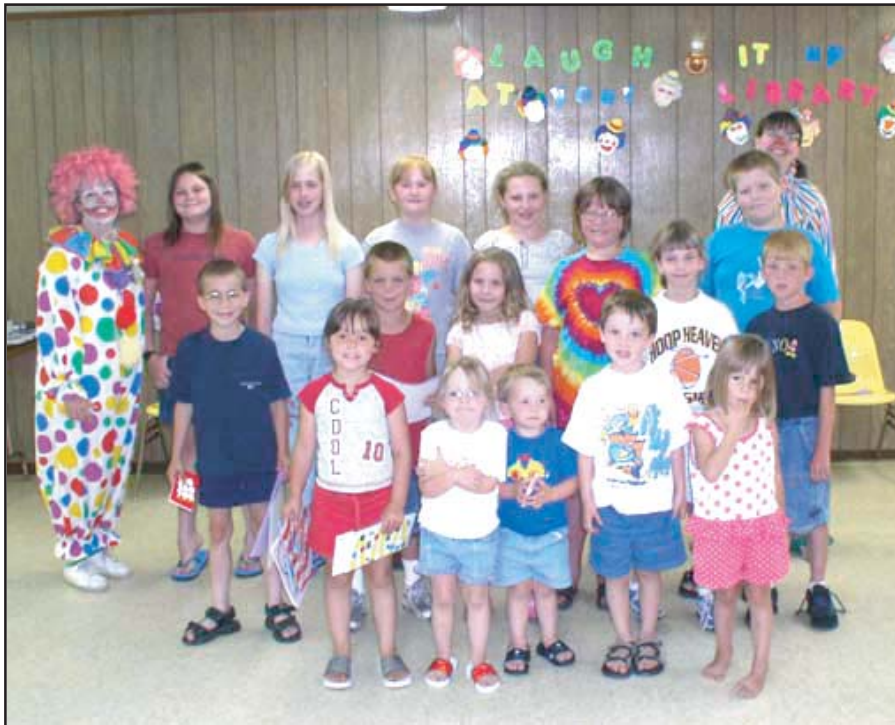
So, Barbara and each of her parents wrote checks for \$1,000 and the Libri Foundation was born. In 1990, Barbara donated the first \$1,000 worth of new children's books to an Oregon library. And for hundreds of libraries

over the next ten years, she selected the best new books, ordered, packed, and delivered many of them in person to the thousands of children who were waiting.

From 1990 to 2000, Barbara raised and donated \$1,000,000 through the Libri Foundation to small libraries across the country. From 2000 to 2003, she doubled that total and helped libraries in 48 states. As the years passed, Barbara retired from her other jobs, added a part-time assistant, and the use of UPS for shipping. Otherwise, the Libri Foundation and Barbara McKillip are still one and the same.

Barbara said she decided to try to make a difference because she "had the time and energy to help other people's children." I believe she *has* made a difference, and those "other people's children" will always be her children, too!

Barbara McKillip and the Libri Foundation can be reached at P.O. Box 10246, Eugene, Oregon 97440 or by calling (541) 747-9655.



Summer Reading Program winners at Rosebud County Library are clowning around with helper clowns Robbie Taylor and Norma Beebe. This summer's theme for reading programs was "Laugh it up @ your library." Photo by Cherie Hesper, Director. Thanks to everyone who submitted photos to Big Sky Libraries!

Periodical Database Vendor Chosen

By Bruce Newell

In June and July, the Networking Task Force (NTF) considered the responses of three, full-text periodical database vendors to the State Library's Request for Proposal to purchase a product to serve the needs of all Montana libraries during the next two years. This product is funded by 2003 legislative and local funds. After long and hard deliberations, the NTF recommended to the State Librarian that the State Library pursue a contract with Gale group; we expect to have a signed contract by the time you are reading this. Gale is our current provider of the statewide periodical databases.

Look for detailed announcements about the contract terms and the registration process on the Montana Library Network homepage (<http://montanalibraries.org>), in the next newsletter, and on Wired-Mt, the electronic mailing for Montana's library community <http://montanalibraries.org/MLNwired.htm>.

The State Library thanks the members of the NTF who spend a week evaluating response and selecting the vendor's offering which best met the needs of Montana's libraries. The NTF's work was made easier by the help of the state's purchasing division.

The following databases will be included in our next two year contract:

- 159 full text newspapers including The New York Times and The Great Falls Tribune
- Business & Company Profiles ASAP (info from Business Index ASAP and the full text of PR Newswire releases with over 200,000 combined directory listings)
- Business & Company Resource Center
- Computer Database
- Discovering Collection (encyclopedia database including 5 subject areas (History, Literature, Biographies, Science, and Social Studies). It includes many of Gale's UXL Jr. titles, such as the Encyclopedia of States, World Cultures, Nations, etc.)
- Expanded Academic ASAP PLUS
- General Reference Center Gold
- Health & Wellness Resource Center Alternative Health Module
- Health & Wellness Resource Center including the Alternative Health Module
- Health Reference Center Academic
- InfoTrac Junior Edition (junior high and middle school)
- InfoTrac OneFile PLUS (Gale's big all-in-one database)
- InfoTrac Student Edition (secondary)
- Kid's InfoBits (Kindergarten through Grade 5)
- LegalTrac
- Professional Collection (300 full-text journals for educators)
- What Do I Read Next (readers' advisory)

NRIS Offers Free Seminars

Do your patrons need information or maps about Montana's land, water, or plant and animal resources? Montana's Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) can help. Its information holdings include an array of data prepared for Geographic Information Systems (GIS), computer hardware and software technology that allows users to map, overlay, and analyze different 'spatial' data layers to help them make land-based decisions.

In addition to GIS data, NRIS offers extensive water information, including fisheries data, water quality and quantity data, and groundwater resources information (wells, water rights, etc.). NRIS also houses the Montana Natural Heritage Program (NHP), whose

scientists collect, manage, and disseminate biodiversity information on plants, animals, and natural communities.

In addition to making this information available via the Internet, NRIS also sponsors free monthly seminars on topics relating to natural resources and GIS. Each of these events will take place at MSL. Registration is not required; however, out-of-town participants are encouraged to call MSL Communications Coordinator Anastasia Burton at (406) 444-5357 or e-mail her at aburton@state.mt.us prior to attending, as occasionally there is a scheduling change.

Groups in need of a speaker regarding access to natural resource information are also encouraged to contact NRIS, as customized presentations can often be arranged free of charge.

The following list is a schedule of upcoming NRIS seminars. All are on Friday afternoons from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm, with the exception of November:

August 22 *Digital Atlas of Montana*
September 26 *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Planning Process*
October 24 *Census Resources*
November 19 *GIS Day (activities TBA soon)*
December 12 *Earthquake Mapping*
January 23 *Declining Grassland Birds: Species, Status & Studies*

A program of Montana State Library's Digital Library (MSdL), NRIS was created in 1985 to serve as the State's clearinghouse for natural resource information. To access its data and services, or to learn more about upcoming seminars, visit: <http://nr.is.state.mt.us>.



Book Festivals

Montana to Participate in 2003 National Book Festival

The third annual National Book Festival, organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress, will be held on October 4. The event will take place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This widely anticipated national cultural event is free and open to the public. Live television coverage will be provided by C-SPAN 2's Book TV.

Montana will be represented at a booth in the "Pavilion of the States" coordinated by the Montana State Library and the Montana Committee for the Humanities. Bette Ammon, Missoula Public Library Director, and Mark Sherouse, Executive Director of the Montana

Committee for the Humanities, will staff the display.

Featuring more than 80 award-winning authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers, the 2003 festival is expected to attract a crowd of more than 60,000. Many nationally known poets will read and talk about poetry throughout the day. Among them will be Kim Haaland of Billings and Paul Zarzyski of Great Falls.

For more information about the 2003 National Book Festival, call toll-free (888) 714-4696 or visit the festival's website at <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest>.



Montana Festival of the Book September 18-20

For the fourth year in a row, Montanans will celebrate the written word with a festival, which is set for September 18 - 20 in historic downtown Missoula.

The Montana Festival of the Book will feature scores of the region's writers in a variety of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, a literary contest, signings, entertainment, receptions, and other events. More than 5,000 visitors from across the state, the nation, and Europe are expected to attend. The Festival is presented by the Montana Center for the Book and the Montana Committee for the Humanities, in association with numerous other national, state, and local organizations and businesses.

The celebration is open to the public and almost all of the more than 60 events are free of charge. Venues in downtown Missoula include the Wilma Theatre, the Holiday Inn Parkside, Caras Park, the Missoula Public Library, and the Art Museum of Missoula.

The Montana Festival of the Book has become the state's largest-ever literary celebration. Major 2003 Festival sponsors include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Montana Arts Council, The Charles Engelhard Foundation, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation.

For more information, contact Kim Anderson, Festival Coordinator, kanders@selway.umt.edu, or Mark Sherouse, Executive Director, Montana Committee for the Humanities/Montana Center for the Book, (406) 243-6022 or 1-800-624-6001, sherouse@selway.umt.edu or visit <http://www.bookfest-mt.org>.

Continued from page 1: Library Public Awareness Campaign

feel that my life would have been directionless without libraries. They are the first places where I learned to imagine the life I hoped for, and where I discovered that reading can be the best part of your life."

Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs said, "As a historian's daughter, my association with local, state, and university libraries has always been strong. I have used libraries since I was a young child, and worked in the Mansfield Library Archives at the University of Montana, where I also did microfilm research for my father to help pay for my tuition."

She added, "When I moved to Helena, I continued doing microfilm research at the Montana State Library, the Lewis and Clark Library, and at the Montana Historical Society Library. Librarians are some of my favorite people on earth, and as I have used libraries my entire life, I can truly say that whenever I visit one, it feels like coming home."

In addition to the PSAs, a website will be launched to serve as a central resource for Montana libraries participating in the campaign. Librarians will be able to find sample press and public relations materials, as well as information on how to develop their own marketing plans. This website will be at <http://msl.state.mt.us/@yourlibrary>.

Librarians attending the fall workshops and federation meetings will also receive more information and training regarding the "Need it? Find it! @ your library" campaign at presentations that are scheduled as part of those events.

The PSAs will air on radio, TV, and select cable stations across Montana from September 1 through the end of November. For more information about the campaign, contact MSL Communications/Marketing Coordinator Anastasia Burton at (406) 444-5357 or aburton@state.mt.us.



1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800
Address Service Requested

Big Sky Libraries is available online at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/admin/bsl/update.html>

State Librarian's Office:
Karen Strege, Ph.D., State Librarian
Kris Schmitz, Central Services Manager
Darlene Staffeldt, Program Manager
Library Development:
Bob Cooper, Suzanne Keymer, Tracy Cook,
Statewide Technology Librarians
Sue Jackson, Federal Grants/Institutions
Bruce Newell, Montana Library Network Manager
Library and Information Services:
Suzy Holt, Client Services Supervisor
Sarah McHugh, Technical Services and
Systems Supervisor
Montana Talking Book Library: Christine Briggs, Supervisor
Natural Resource Information System: Jim Hill, Director
Montana State Library Commission:
Al Randall, Chair
Donald Allen
Caroline Ritz
Toni Broadbent
Bruce Morton
Linda McQuillan, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Cheri Bergeron, Alternate for Supt. of Public Instruction
Phone: 406-444-3115 — **Fax:** 406-444-0266
Toll Free in Montana: 800-338-5087 — **TDD:** 406-444-3005
Montana State Library Home Page: <http://msl.state.mt.us>
E-Mail: msl@state.mt.us
The Montana State Library does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.
Big Sky Libraries is a bimonthly publication of the Montana State Library.
Anastasia Burton, Editor
This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.
990 copies of this newsletter were published at an estimated cost of \$389.80, \$221.95 for printing and \$167.85 for distribution.